GUIDE TO THE AF15 EAST CHINA FILE

[The AF15 East China file is concerned with the people and culture of the Chinese provinces of Kiangsu and Chekiang which lie along the eastern coast and have Shanghai as their main city and port. The economy is dependent upon rice agriculture as the basis of subsistence, and upon the great amount of trade passing through Shanghai and on the Yangtze River. There are three sources in the file, all of them in English. The basic source is 1: Stanford, which presents a concise account of the social, economic and political conditions and problems of this region. Primary emphasis is placed on developments since the Chinese Communists assumed control in 1949, but the region's past is touched upon whenever necessary. Both sources 2 and 3 are concerned with Shanghai. 2: Murphy analyzes the growth of the city and its economic importance to China. 3: Hinder deals with economic and social problems in the international settlement in Shanghai during the 1930's, and is much more restricted in its focus and analysis than the other two sources. The researcher should be aware that source 1: Stanford also includes the provinces of Shantung (which belongs in AF12 North China), Anhwei (AF14 Central China), and Fukien (AF17 South China) within its purview, and should evaluate his use of the materials accordingly. The file gives a good general coverage of the region as of the early 1950's and should be adequate for most comparative purposes. However, little material in depth is given. The file was processed in 1955 and 1956.]